

# RURAL DISTRICT OF EAST STOW.

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## REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1910.

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### To the Chairman and Members of the East Stow Rural District Council.

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JANUARY, 1911.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of East Stow Rural District, for the year ending 31st December, 1910.

#### *Vital Statistics.*

Birth Rate,  
23.7 per 1000. The number of Births registered was 137 (boys 66, girls 71), which gives a Birth Rate of 23.7 per 1000, compared with 26.3 per 1000 last year, and an average of 25.9 for the previous 10 years.

Five of the Births were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate for the Thedwastre District was 22.1, and for Stowmarket 18.2 per 1000.

There were 85 Deaths (males 45, females 40) registered in the district during the year.

Death Rate,  
11.0 per 1000. Deducting 13 deaths of non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the district and adding 1 belonging to this district, occurring in the County Asylum and 1 occurring in Ipswich Hospital we get the correct number of deaths, viz. : 63, which is equal to a Death Rate of 11.0 per 1000, compared with 12.3 last year, and an average of 13.8 for the previous ten years. (See Table 1).

The Death Rate for the Thedwastre District was 13.5, and for Stowmarket 12.9.

Infant Mor-  
tality, 58 per  
1000 Births. Of the total number of Deaths, 8 were of infants under 1 year of age, giving an Infant Mortality of 58 per 1000 births, compared with 71 last year, and an average of 106 for the previous ten years.

The Infant Mortality of the Thedwastre District was 41, and of Stowmarket 92.1.

Zymotic  
Death Rate,  
0.2. There was 1 Death from Enteric Fever, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.2 per 1000, compared with nil last year.

This rate for Thedwastre District was 0.1 per 1000, and nil for Stowmarket.

Other Deaths. There were 4 Deaths from Phthisis, compared with 8 last year. 5 from Cancer, compared with 6 last year. 15 from Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, compared with 12 last year. 6 from Heart Disease, compared with 10 last year. 3 were due to Accidents, and 1 Suicidal. 36 were of persons over 65 years of age.

## ***Infectious Diseases.***

There were 17 notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year, compared with 45 last year.

DIPHTHERIA 2, compared with 6 last year.

ERYSIPELAS 3, compared with 4 last year.

SCARLET FEVER 11, compared with 33 last year.

ENTERIC FEVER 1, compared with 2 last year.

The cases of Diphtheria were notified from Onehouse and Finborough.

The cases of Erysipelas from Combs, Buxhall and Finborough.

The cases of Scarlet Fever, Stowupland 8, Combs 1, Finborough 1, Buxhall 1.

The case of Enteric Fever from Haughley.

### **Phthisis (P. H. Tuberculosis Act 1908).**

There were no notifications of Phthisis under this act during the year.

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Factory Act 1901.      The factories and workshops in the District to the number of 35 were inspected during the year and were found to be in a satisfactory state.

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Water Supply.      The soil in this District is chiefly mixed loam and clay, with a sub-soil of heavy clay, except at Haughley and Wetherden where it is chiefly gravel.

Buxhall, Finborough, Gipping, Harleston, Onehouse, Shelland and Wetherden obtain their water for domestic purposes from shallow wells or ponds, always liable to pollution.

Haughley has a fairly good water supply from a well at the top of the street ; the rest of the supply is from ponds and a few private wells.

At Combs there are three ponds made and kept by the Council ; the rest of the supply is from ponds liable to pollution, and shallow wells.

Old Newton has one deep well in the chalk, (a safe supply), and four ponds made and kept by the Council. The rest of the supply is inferior, being from ponds, liable to pollution, a few shallow wells and also from surface field drainage.

The most satisfactory supply is at Creeting St. Peter, where there is a deep well in the chalk. The water is pumped by a windmill into settling tanks.

Stowupland is supplied by four ponds made and kept up by the Council, a few shallow wells, and the Urban part of the village partly by the Stowmarket Water Works.

The ponds made by the Council are protected by corrugated iron fencing, they are carefully inspected and cleaned out when necessary. Some as at Stowupland, supply, by pipes and pumps, large areas. Although not absolutely safe, they are superior to the polluted ponds they replaced.

House Accommodation.      The chief occupation of the inhabitants of the district is agricultural. Cottage accommodation is very poor on the whole, being mostly badly built, damp and ill ventilated.

The inspection of houses under the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909 is not completed.

Enough has been done however to shew that in most villages accommodation is insufficient.

Sewerage and Drainage.      The only sewers in the District are situated in the lower or Urban parts of Stowupland and Combs.

In Stowupland there is a total length of 4450 feet. There are 139 cottages, and all have been connected. A 30-foot Ventilation Shaft has been erected on the highest part of the sewer.

In Combs there is a total length of 1300 feet, and 47 houses have been connected up.

The sewage is pumped up on to the Sewage Farm, through an eleven-inch rising main.

Cowsheds and Dairies.      The Cowsheds and Dairies were inspected and were found on the whole to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

Nuisances.      Twenty-one notices were served on owners to abate nuisances. All but two have been complied with.

Owing to the occurrence of four cases of plague at Freston in the county, and the discovery of infected rats in that district, and also in the districts of Woodbridge and Glemsford, measures have been taken, and are being taken, to destroy rats in this district. These measures have been discussed with officials from the Local Government Board and their suggestions and advice have been acted upon.

In all instances where rats or other rodents have died under suspicious circumstances, they have been forwarded to the L. G. B. for bacteriological examination. Up to the present, none have been found infected with plague in this district.

In accordance with the directions of the L. G. B. a further exhaustive test is being made. A large number of rats (350) from different parts of the district being required for examination. The result of this test is not yet known.

## **General Remarks.**

Again, this has been an exceptionally healthy year. The Death Rate being considerably below the average.

There has been very little Infectious Disease in the District

The Birth Rate has been lower than it has been since 1905.

The Infant Mortality is very low.

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The following details have reference to the various Villages in the District.

BUXHALL (Population—402; Area—2523 Acres).

There were 8 Births, compared with 11 last year.

There were 3 Deaths, compared with 7 last year.

Two were infants under 1 year of age; the third was aged 76.

There was 1 case of Scarlet Fever notified.

Notices were served on owners of 2 houses in respect of defective sanitary arrangements. The nuisance in each instance was abated.

Notice was served on the owner of 1 farm owing to defective drainage. This nuisance is being abated.

In another instance notice was served to repair defective privy vault.

Under the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909 an inspection of 67 cottages has been made in Buxhall.

The following is a summary of the facts disclosed by the inspection, prepared by Dr. Low, M.O.H.

Allowing 400 cubic feet for each person (adult and child), as the bedrooms have no fire-places, and the amount of window opening is always very small; there are 20 cottages overcrowded.

14 have 3 bedrooms.

47 have 2 bedrooms.

6 have 1 bedroom only.

19 cottages are described as very clean.

37 as clean.

5 as fairly clean.

3 as dirty.

2 as empty.

40 have privy vaults.

20 have pail closets.

1 has no sanitary accommodation whatever.

Eleven only have any attempt at drainage, and in several of these the drains were blocked at time of visit.

In 5 instances 1 privy vault or pail closet has to serve for 2 cottages.

Surface wells supply 49 cottages, the rest depend on ponds.

Fifteen cottages only were in good repair, the rest defective and some even delapidated.

The Yards of the cottages were not paved.

In most instances the contents of privy, or pail, and sink water is emptied into a hole in the garden.



COMBS (1212; 2786).

There were 30 Births, compared with 23 last year.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with 13 last year.

One case of Scarlet Fever notified.

In 6 instances notices were served on owners.

In 1 instance privy vault was defective.

In 3 instances privy vaults were too near the house.

In 2 other instances there was defective drainage.

In all these cases the nuisance was abated.

CREETING ST. PETER (231; 1312).

There was 1 Birth, compared with 9 last year.

There were 5 Deaths, compared with 3 last year.

One was of an infant under 1 year.

No cases of Infectious Diseases notified.

In 1 instance notice was served on owner owing to defective privy vault. The nuisance was abated.

FINBOROUGH MAGNA & PARVA (445; 367).

There were 10 Births, compared with 8 last year. One was illegitimate.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 5 last year. One was 75, the other 82.

One case of Erysipelas was notified, and 1 case of Diphtheria.

One house was in a filthy condition, this was remedied after the usual notice was served.

GIPPING (39; 1104).

There was 1 Birth as compared with 2 last year.

There was <sup>no</sup> 1 Death.

HARLESTON (64; 615).

There was 1 Death, compared with <sup>none</sup> 1 last year.

There were no Births.

HAUGHLEY (738; 2485).

There were 23 Births, compared with 28 last year.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with 13 last year.

One was under 1 year. Two were over 80.

One case of Enteric Fever was notified, and 1 of Erysipelas.

No nuisances were reported.

OLD NEWTON (619; 2848).

There were 13 Births, compared with 18 last year.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with 7 last year.

One was under 1 year of age. One was aged 90.

There were no Infectious Diseases notified.

In the case of 5 cottages, the drainage was defective. The usual notices were served, and the nuisance in each instance was abated.

ONEHOUSE (99; 898).

There were 7 Births, as compared with 8 last year. One was illegitimate.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with 1 last year. Five of these were 77 and over.

One case of Diphtheria was notified.

SHELLAND (89; 540).

There were 3 Births.

There was 1 Death, age 81.

No Infectious Diseases notified, and no nuisances reported.

WETHERDEN (400; 1830).

There were 9 Births, compared with 12 last year.

There were 4 Deaths, compared with 4 last year.

There were no Infectious Diseases notified.

In 1 instance sewage was reported running into the road. The usual notice was served and nuisance was remedied.

UNION WORKHOUSE (116).

There were 16 Deaths, compared with 20 last year.

Seven were over 80, and two were 79.

No Infectious Diseases were notified.

STOWUPLAND (1326; 2840).

There were 28 Births, compared with 31 last year.

Three were illegitimate.

There were 17 Deaths, compared with 12 last year.

Three were under 1 year. Four were over 75.

Eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. One of Erysipelas.

In 3 instances nuisances were reported, notices served and the defects remedied.

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I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. HILLIER, M.D.,

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health.*

Table I shows the estimated population, and Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

Table II refers to the Factories Act.

Table III shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to age.

Table IV shows the causes of, and ages at Death during the year.

Table V gives the details of Infant Mortality.

TABLE I.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1yr. of age		At all Ages.					Number	Rate.*
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registrd.	Number	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	6100	139	22.5	12	86	89	14.5	15	11		78	12.7
1901	5929	158	26.6	16	101	111	18.7	20	16		95	16.0
1902	5926	179	30.2	13	86	99	16.7	12	6	1	94	15.8
1903	5907	158	26.9	17	106	88	14.8	11	8		80	13.8
1904	5890	160	27.1	18	112	82	13.9	16	11		71	12.0
1905	5875	138	23.4	20	144	90	15.3	13	7		83	14.1
1906	5860	148	25.2	18	121	95	16.2	20	14	1	82	13.9
1907	5845	147	24.9	19	129	80	13.6	9	5		75	12.8
1908	5830	152	26.0	16	105	102	17.4	22	18	2	86	14.7
1909	5815	153	26.3	11	71	85	14.6	20	15	2	72	12.3
Averages for years 1900-1909			25.9		106		15.5					13.8
1910	5815	137	23.5	8	58	75	12.9	17	13	2	64	11.0

\* Rates in Columns 4 and 8 should be calculated per 1,000 of estimated gross population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	..	21200.
Total Population at all ages at Census of 1901	..	5926.
Number of inhabited houses	..	1345.
Average number of persons per house	..	4.4.

TABLE II.

Factories 3. Workshops 20.  
No Nuisances or Defects reported.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria .. ..	2				1	1	
Erysipelas .. ..	3	1				1	1
Scarlet Fever ..	11		2	9			
Enteric Fever ..	1				1		
Puerperal Fever ..							
Totals .. ..	17	1	2	9	2	2	1

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1910.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Deaths at the subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring in or beyond the District						Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non "Residents" in Public institutions in the District.
			All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Whooping Cough	..	..							
Diphtheria	..	..							
Enteric Fever	..	..	1		1				
Diarrhoea	..	..							
Phthisis	..	..	4		1	3			
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..		1	1		3			
Cancer	..	..	5			2	2		
Bronchitis	..	..	10	3	1	1	4		
Pneumonia	..	..	5		1		3		
Premature Birth	..	..	1	1					
Diseases and Accidents of Partuition									
Heart Diseases	..	..	6	1			5		
Accidents	..	..	3		1	1	1		
Suicides	..	..	1			1			
All other causes	..	..	27	3	1	2	21		
All Causes	..	..	64	8	3	4	13	36	

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 week	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES	certified	..	..	2		2	1	2	1	8
„	uncertified	..	..							
Premature Birth	..	..	..	1						1
Congenital Defects	..	..	..				1			1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..					1				1
Bronchitis	..	..	..			1		1	1	3
Other Causes	..	..	..	1				1		2

Population estimated to middle of 1910	..	..	5815.	
Births in the year	}	legitimate	..	132.
		illegitimate	..	5.
Deaths in the year of	}	legitimate infants	..	7.
		illegitimate infants	..	1.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages	..	..	63.	